THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 11th January 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Appointment of a lady doctor in the Government Hospital at Perintalmanna.

* 421 Q—SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have sanctioned or have under contemplation the appointment of a lady doctor in the Government Hospital at Perintalmanna in Malabar district?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Since the hospital is situated in the headquarters of the taluk with a population of some six lakhs of people and since the services of a lady doctor even as a private practitioner is not available in the taluk, will the Government be pleased to appoint a lady doctor at least in the immediate future."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Government will consider the necessity of posting a lady doctor to the hospital during this year, if the attendance of women patients is such as to require the services of a lady doctor."

SRI O. KORAN :—" In view of the fact that the present hospital building has not got sufficient accommodation, will the Government be pleased to take steps to construct a new building? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is about lady doctors. But the hon. Member is talking about buildings."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Since the Hon. Minister has given a negative answer, may I know how many lady doctors' services are available in Malabar? Has the Hon. Minister got necessary figures? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate question may be put."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Is there any provision for appointment of lady doctors and can discrimination be shown on the ground of sex in appointments to public offices? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" If there are a large number of women patients and we find it necessary to appoint a lady doctor, we appoint one whenever lady doctors are available."

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Sri T. ANANTA PAI :—" Is it not a fact that we do not have sufficient number of lady doctors to man our hospitals? If so, will the Government take steps to relieve such a situation? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" We give a 20 per cent reservation in our medical colleges for women candidates. But unfortunately some of them leave their studies during the course of their training because they marry. Some of them even after they are recruited as doctors continue for some time and then resign their jobs because they marry, some get children or for some other reason."

Sri P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" May I know, Sir, when the above hospital was taken over by Government from the Malabar District Board? Is it not also a fact that no improvements have been made to the hospital since then? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" This question is about lady doctors. The hon. Member is staying away from the main question."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" The Hon. Minister had said that if the statistics show that there are sufficient number of women patients coming to the hospital, the question of appointment of a lady doctor would be considered. But is it not a fact that due to want of accommodation in the hospital, a large number of women patients who come daily to the hospital are being turned out and they return without receiving any medical assistance? Does that not produce discontent among the people because there is no lady doctor to attend to them and there is not sufficient accommodation? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" This hospital was provincialized in 1952. I think the hospital will be extended and additional staff appointed in due course."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is it not a fact that this Government are conniving at recruitment of or lady doctors by foreign agencies thus depriving us of the services of these doctors? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Lady doctors are anxious to be in towns and cities. When they are posted to far-off places, some of them resign their jobs. I wonder whether any of them will be prepared to go to foreign places."

Sri KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" May I know the average number of women patients required for appointment of a lady doctor in Perintalmanna hospital? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no proportion fixed. It is left to the discretion of the District Medical Officer and the Director of Medcial Services."